

multiparty democracy. Free and fair elections are held at all levels of government—elections in which nearly 70 percent of Taiwan's citizens participate. The Taiwanese enjoy many freedoms including the right of assembly, expression and association, freedom of religion and freedom of the press. Human rights are well-established and protected. Taiwan is committed to upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and the Declaration and Action Program of the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights.

Taiwan has the world's 12th largest economy and is the United States 8th largest trading partner. Its GDP of \$386 billion is the 23rd largest in the world. However, perhaps more impressive is the fact that only 1 percent of its population live below the poverty line. Its thriving, market-based economy has enabled it to contribute generously to international aid efforts. In the first half of 2001, Taiwan provided nearly \$700,000 through its International Cooperation and Development Program. The Republic of China-Central American Economic Development Fund has also enabled it to solidify cooperative relationships with Central American nations and reflects Taiwan's growing interest in that area.

Last year, Secretary of State Colin Powell praised Taiwan, stating that it has become "a resilient economy, a vibrant democracy and a generous contributor to the international community." He called it a "success story" for Asia and the world—words with which I heartily agree.

It is particularly important at this time to recognize and to thank nations that have been our unswerving friends for many years. We must also acknowledge those democracies that have stood as our allies. I take great pleasure in congratulating Taiwan on its National Day celebration and look forward to a continuation of our mutually beneficial relationship.

HONORING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a great man, a man who died before his time, the late Senator Paul Wellstone.

On October 25, 2002, the people of Minnesota, the Senate and our nation lost a beloved colleague and humanitarian. Paul Wellstone was a man of deep convictions who cared deeply for those around him. A champion of working families, the poor, the disenfranchised, the forgotten, the voiceless, and the disabled, Paul Wellstone was a liberal Democrat in the truest sense of the term during a time when liberalism was not politically fashionable.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Wellstone took stands on issues of principle. He voted against the Resolution authorizing the use of military force in Iraq and the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. He was the only Democrat to vote against the Democratic version of the estate tax repeal; opposed the Administration's national missile defense program and was against permanent normal trade relations with China. Paul

Wellstone was not ashamed of voting his conscience, even if this meant that he would often stand alone. For this, Senator Wellstone won the accolades of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, as the son of immigrant Russian Jews, Paul Wellstone believed in the promise of America. Prior to his entry into the United States Senate, this plain-spoken man was a devoted and beloved associate professor of political science at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he taught for 21 years. And although diagnosed with a mild case of multiple sclerosis, Paul did not let it incapacitate him. He continued to fight for those issues dear to his heart: affordable universal health care, mental health parity, family leave, veterans affairs, and environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly blessed to have known Paul Wellstone. On that fateful day 1 year ago on October 25, 2002, I lost a beloved friend and colleague and the world lost a fearless and selfless public servant and tireless advocate for justice. He has left a deep void in this institution and is truly missed. He is often remembered for a particular saying—that "people yearn for a 'politics of the center', not 'the center' so widely discussed by politicians and pundits in Washington, but, rather, a politics that speaks to the center of people's lives." On this 1-year anniversary of the death of this courageous and principled man I urge my colleagues to commit themselves to his legacy and fight for the things to which Paul Wellstone dedicated his life. I know I will.

A TRIBUTE TO CHIEF OF POLICE ELVIN G. MIALI ON THE OCCA- SION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding official of the city of Fountain Valley, California. Chief of Police Elvin G. Miali has devoted almost four decades of his life in service to his community and to his country. Chief Miali has excelled in his many law enforcement assignments over the years beginning in the city of San Gabriel and culminating in the city of Fountain Valley.

The experience, commitment and professionalism which Chief Miali brings to the leadership of a major law enforcement organization is highly respected and commended by his peers throughout Orange County and the State of California. Setting high standards for himself and all his department personnel and staff, he is known for achieving exceptional results under the most demanding of situations. The trademark of his leadership is "first class, the first time, every time."

Chief Miali began his law enforcement career on February 27, 1967, with the city of San Gabriel, California, where he rose through the ranks and achieved the position of Captain. During this time his assignments included the Detective Bureau for 12 years, six of which dealt with robbery and homicide. In August 1986, he was selected Chief of Police for the Fountain Valley Police Department. His community contributions during 17 years as Chief of Police include active efforts to combat drug abuse, child abuse, and drinking and

driving, as well as promoting charitable efforts such as helping underprivileged children at Christmas. Before it had a name, Chief Miali introduced the Community-Oriented Policing philosophy.

A most distinguished police officer with an undergraduate degree in Police Science, a master's degree in Public Administration, and a graduate of the POST Command College and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program, Chief Miali is known throughout Fountain Valley and Orange County as one of the city's principal ambassadors.

Chief Miali, together with his wife Charli and their two children, Elvin and Carla, are proud citizens of Fountain Valley, a city which can rightfully look to Chief Miali for making its motto "A Nice Place to Live" happen every day.

Mr. Speaker, as Chief Miali completes his 36 years of devoted public service in law enforcement, and sets his course for new and ever challenging community involvement, I am sure my colleagues will join me in saluting him and thanking him for the exemplary job "well done"—for Fountain Valley, for California, and for America.

SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act. This important legislation takes a strong and decisive stand against international terrorism. It also demonstrates the firm resolve of the United States in opposing those who support terrorism or provide funding and safe harbor for its perpetrators.

Syria continues to be a major sponsor of international terrorist groups, and has been listed by the State Department as a sponsor of terrorism since the inception of the terrorist list in 1979. Numerous terrorist groups, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and at least seven more, have headquarters in Damascus. In addition to offices, these groups maintain training camps and other facilities on Syrian territory. Hizballah, referred to as the "A-team of terrorism" by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, operates in areas of Lebanon occupied by Syria and receives supplies from Iran through Syria. In doing so, Syria is in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 which directs all states to "refrain from providing any form of support" for terrorism. Furthermore, their attacks on Israel, launched with the acquiescence of the Syrian government, harm innocent civilians and risk leading to a wider regional war.

In addition to its harboring of international terrorism, Syria's 20,000 strong occupation force has continued to occupy Lebanese territory, denying Lebanon its independence and political sovereignty. This occupation has also prevented Lebanon from fulfilling its obligation under UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 520 to deploy its troops to southern Lebanon. As a result, southern Lebanon is under the control of the terrorist group Hizballah,